

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 08961 161247Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 OIC-02 /076 W
-----112057 161249Z /53

O 161227Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2809
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8961

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON SUMMIT

1. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE MOD, MINISTER RUFFINI WOULD PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI. CHEF DE CABINET ADMIRAL DE BOCARD IS LEAVING TODAY FOR BRUSSELS WHERE HE WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN HOWMANY ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS PLAN TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. THAT INFORMATION WILL BE RELAYED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. SHOULD THE MAJORITY OF THE ALLIED MODS INTEND TO GO TO THE SUMMIT, ANDREOTTI WILL ASK RUFFINI TO GO AS WELL. A DECISION WILL BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS.

2. COMMENT: RUFFINI'S RELUCTANCE IS VERY LIKELY RELATED TO HIS WISH TO AVOID THE EMBARRASSMENT OF BEING UNABLE TO RESPOND TO FURTHER PRESSURES TO ALTER THE ITALIAN POSITION ON THE LTDP. NONETHELESS, HE WILL GO, IF SO INSTRUCTED BY ANDREOTTI. IN LIGHT OF RUFFINI'S SENSE THAT THE U.S. IS RAMMING PROGRAM THROUGH FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES WITHOUT MUCH REGARD FOR REALITIES OF ITALIAN SITUATION, SUGGESTIONS IN NATO AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF RUFFINI'S PRESENCE
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AT THE SUMMIT MIGHT, IN OUR VIEW, BETTER COME
FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS, IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME08961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780206-0527
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780554/aaaabtkn.tel
Line Count: 57
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 85483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2677582
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON SUMMIT
TAGS: MPOL, OVIP, IT, US, NATO, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO), (RUFFINI, ATTILIO)
To: STATE USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/85483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014